

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W
-----074231 012108Z /65
R 011236Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3718
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 1141

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, DR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BALAGUER PARDONS PRISONERS, LIFTS RE-ENTRY
PROHIBITIONS, AND RETURNS CONFISCATED PASSPORTS ON OCCASION OF
DOMINICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

1. ON FEB 26, ONE DAY BEFORE DOMINICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY,
PRESIDENT BALAGUER TOOK THREE SEPARATE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIONS:
THIRTY-EIGHT PRISONERS IN THE NATIONS JAILS WERE PARDONED,
RE-ENTRY PROHIBITIONS WERE LIFTED AGAINST SIXTY-SIX DOMINICANS,
AND PASSPORTS WERE ORDER RETURNED TO FIFTY-FIVE DOMINICANS.
ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY STATED, MOST INDIVIDUALS IN LAST
TWO CATEGORIES WOULD APPEAR TO BE DOMINICANS WHO HAD TRAVELLED
TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITHOUT OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATION OF GODR.

2. OF THE PRISONES PARDONED, ONLY ONE, ROBERTO SANTANA, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE DOMINICAN STUDENTS FEDERATION (FED), IS A WELL-
KNOWN POLITICAL FIGURE. (ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON SANTANA'S RELEASE
REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

3. TWO OF OTHER RELEASED PRISONERS ARE DESCRIBED AS "LEFTISTS"
IN LOCAL PRESS. ONE, HECTOR FABAL DE LA ROSA IS MEMBER OF
COMMUNIST DOMINICAN POPULAR MOVEMENT (MPD), ARRESTED IN 1974 FOR
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INVOLVEMENT IN BANK ROBBERY. OTHER, FERNANDO PANIAGUA ROSARIO,
WAS ACCUSED OF BEING MEMBER OF TERRORIST GANG, WAS POSSIBLY
MPD MEMBER AND WAS ARRESTED IN 1971 FOR INVOLVEMENT IN BANK ROBBERY.

4. COMMENT. GRANTING OF PARDONS BY PRESIDENT UNDER CONSTITUTIONAL
AUTHORITY ON NATIONAL HOLIDAYS, LIFTING OF RE-ENTRY BANS AND
RETURNING OF PASSPORTS TO INDIVIDUALS HAVE BECOME REGULAR

ASPECTS OF GODR EFFORTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. FACT THAT THREE
MEASURES, WHICH ARE FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY LOCAL OPINION, CAME
SIMULTANEOUSLY MAY WELL REFLECT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS DURING
PERIOD PRIOR TO MAY 16 NATIONAL ELECTIONS.
AXELROD

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESIDENT, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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